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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Security Council the attached communication which he has received from the Acting Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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Annex

Letter dated 10 December 1993 from the Acting Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

United Nations Security Council resolution 699 (1991), approved on 17 June 1991, requests, inter alia, the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council progress reports on the implementation of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of the items specified in paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991). Such reports are to be submitted every six months after the adoption of resolution 699 (1991). The report is therefore due on 17 December 1993.

Please find attached an outline of the activities carried out by the Agency during the past six months under the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless, which you might find useful for the preparation of your report.

(Signed) Boris SEMENOV
Acting Director-General

Appendix

Fifth semi-annual report (covering the period 17 June 1993-17 December 1993) on the implementation by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of items listed in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

INTRODUCTION

By resolution 699 (1991) of 17 June 1991, the Security Council approved the plan submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through the Secretary-General, for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of all items listed in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Resolution 699 (1991) also called for the Secretary-General to submit every six months a progress report on the implementation of the plan.

The first four reports were circulated by the Secretary-General to the members of the Security Council in document S/23295, dated 17 December 1991; S/24110, dated 17 June 1992; S/24988, dated 17 December 1992; and S/25983, dated 21 June 1993.

This is the fifth semi-annual report on the implementation by IAEA of the plan for destruction, removal or rendering harmless covering the period from 17 June 1993 to 17 December 1993. During this period, IAEA, with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission of the United Nations, conducted three on-site inspections in Iraq (IAEA-20, IAEA-21 and IAEA-22), detailed reports of which have been distributed to the Security Council. a/

I. PRESENT STATUS

As of 17 December 1993, IAEA has carried out 22 missions in Iraq. The major activities related to the destruction, removal and rendering harmless of proscribed items involved continuing efforts to locate and identify items required to be reported to IAEA.

In addition, a series of high-level technical discussions were held between Iraq, on the one hand, and IAEA and the Special Commission, on the other hand. In the course of these discussions, and of IAEA-22, the Iraqi Government provided information on foreign technical advice received in the centrifuge enrichment area as well as information on procurement from abroad of materials and equipment, including, in particular, maraging steel. Iraq also submitted to IAEA updated and revised declarations pursuant to annexes 2 and 3 of the plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's nuclear activities. Verification of the additional information is under way.

A significant outcome of the high-level talks was the announcement by Iraq, by way of a letter dated 26 November 1993 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/26811) from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, of Iraq's decision "to accept the obligations set forth in resolution 715 (1991)

and to comply with the provisions of the plans for monitoring and verification as contained therein".

Direct-use material

Irradiated fuel

In June 1993, IAEA concluded a contract with the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy, with the Nuclear Assurance Corporation of the United States of America as a main subcontractor, for the removal, transportation from Iraq and subsequent disposal of the remaining enriched uranium, in the form of 208 irradiated fuel assemblies from the Iraqi research reactors, located in Iraq. Extensive preparatory work was carried out to ensure the safety of the removal operation. These activities included, inter alia, the construction of new access roads to the two sites where the fuel assemblies are stored, the installation of cleaning stations and of large reinforced concrete platforms, the securing of adequate heavy-duty lifting equipment and vehicles and the provision of personnel facilities such as offices, decontamination showers and communication equipment.

The first of the two planned shipments was successfully completed on 4 December 1993, with the transport, via air, out of Iraq to a facility in the Russian Federation, of approximately 100 of the fuel assemblies (all of which were manufactured in the former Soviet Union). The removal operations were conducted under the close supervision of IAEA in accordance with all relevant safety standards and measures. The Iraqi authorities have cooperated effectively in providing equipment and utilities and all of the necessary manpower. Preparations for the second shipment will start at the beginning of January 1994, with the objective of completing the total removal by February 1994.

Plutonium and other nuclear material

Efforts have continued to clarify remaining uncertainties in the area of nuclear material, namely the inventory of natural uranium and the detailed utilization of part of this inventory in Iraq's past nuclear activities. Significant progress has been made in the course of IAEA-22 in verifying the origin of the large natural uranium oxide stock declared by the Iraqi authorities to be of Brazilian origin. Also, most of the remaining natural uranium containing slurries from Al Jezira has been recovered - some 59 drums - and is being transferred to location C at Tuwaitha. Verification samples will be taken in the course of the next inspection.

Installations, equipment and other materials relevant to enriched uranium production and to weaponization activities

As indicated above, the Iraqi authorities have submitted an updated list of material, equipment and other items in Iraq identified in annex 3 of the Agency's plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with paragraph 12 of part C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Verification of the correctness and assessment of the completeness of the list, begun in the course of the eighteenth inspection, is continuing. A

description of the verification activities carried out during IAEA-20 and IAEA-21 is set out in the consolidated report of the two missions (S/26333). The activities carried out during IAEA-22 will be described in the twenty-second inspection report.

II. FUTURE ACTIONS

Removal of the remaining irradiated fuel assemblies should be completed by the end of February 1994. Under the contract concluded with the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy, all the irradiated fuel assemblies removed from Iraq will be reprocessed to recover the highly enriched uranium. The latter will be isotopically diluted to less than 20 per cent enrichment by blending it with natural or depleted uranium. The radioactive waste resulting from reprocessing will be adequately conditioned and permanently stored in a waste repository.

Continuing efforts will be made to resolve remaining uncertainties in the nuclear-material flow chart submitted by the Iraqi authorities.

Verification of the correctness and assessment of the completeness of the revised list of items submitted pursuant to annex 3 of the plan for future ongoing monitoring will continue.

Notes

a/ S/26333 (IAEA-20 and IAEA-21); the report on IAEA-22 will be forwarded to the Secretary-General for submission to the Security Council as soon as it is ready.